

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1 between the title and the paragraph beginning at line 1:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/433,771 filed on December 17, 2002.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, beginning at line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

SM₁ can be any monomer comprising at least one -S(=O)₂- group which is able to undergo a polycondensation reaction with 4,4'-biphenol or any other aromatic dihydroxy compound. More than 50 mol.%, and preferable the totality, of SM₁ is chosen preferably from aromatic dihalocompounds comprising at least one -S(=O)₂- group, very preferably from 4,4'-dihalodiphenylsulfones and 4,4'-bis[(4-halophenylsulfonyl)-1,1'-biphenyl] 4,4'-bis(4-halophenylsulfonyl)-1,1'-biphenyls, and still more preferably from 4,4'-dihalodiphenylsulfones.